# **HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

# Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Sub-Committee held at the Town Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on 17 January 2023, at 6:00 pm

Present Cllrs Hannah Avery (VC) Jordan Beech David Powell\*

Jante Baird Giorgio Buttironi \* Martin Saunders (C)

Mike George

Non-Councillors Richard Bethell Mike Humphrey

\* Absent

Also Present Joan Walsh (Town Clerk)

Judy Morgan (RFO)

ESC 30 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllr Powell be accepted.

**ESC 31** Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest in relation to any items included on the agenda.

RESOLVED: noted.

ESC 32 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 November 2022

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2022 be approved.

**ESC 33** Works Perfect: Horley Commercial Hub Proposals

Mike Humphrey (MH) gave the following update. He said that a small attractive retail unit at 24B High Street, Horley was empty and although it was half the size that the Hub was originally seeking. However, it could still be a workable option, especially as the main fit-out had already been done and included a kitchenette and WC. The property was in a good central location, the cost was less and therefore the prospect came with less risk. It was expected that the letting agent would return on 19 January and MH undertook to follow up on the opportunity. He added that he would circulate the floor plans to the Environment Sub-Committee (ESC).

MH further reported that he had done some work on the Work-from-Pub initiative as another possibility. He had put together a draft of what the initiative could look like and how HTC could potentially support the initiative (subject to approval). He had informal discussions with some local pub landlords and would shortly circulate the draft proposals to the ESC.

Cllr George referred to the most recent RBBC/HTC Liaison Meeting, at which the Borough Council Leader, Cllr Mark Brunt had offered to meet with the ESC and said that he thought this would very worthwhile. Mike Humphrey agreed that it would be good to have the opportunity to discuss opportunities to improve the community and how to overcome the barriers and lack of opportunity. The Town Clerk said that she would follow this up at the next liaison meeting coming up on 2 February 2023.

Cllr Saunders reported that he had made no further progress regarding the former site of Barclays Bank on Victoria Road. He also reported that there was a possibility of being able to supply the hardware thorough the 'Levelling up' programme, for up to 10 workstations for the 'Work-from-Pub' initiative.

## ESC 33) RESOLVED: that

- (i) Mike Humphrey circulates the floor plan for 24B High Street Horley and his first draft about the 'Work from Pub' (WFP) scheme, for further information.
- (ii) the Town Clerk follows up on the possibility of a meeting between the ESC and the RBBC Leader, Cllr Mark Brunt.
- (iii) a further update on the proposed Horley Commercial Hub project be provided at the next Sub-Committee meeting.

# ESC 34 Tree Planting initiatives

## **Cheyne Walk Roundabout**

The office had followed up with the SCC Highways Environmental Officer who confirmed the following information. Four standard trees and self-watering whips to provide hedging would be planted on the roundabout at the beginning of February 2023. Residents, as previously agreed, would need to water the trees during warm dry weather for the first three years.

# Kingsley Road, junction with Greenfields Road

SCC actually only own the smaller verges, not the main patch of grass behind them but there is still room for 2 or 3 trees in those verges, without affecting site lines on the bend, and the service searches (for which HTC paid £25) have come back, suggesting that they are clear. The good news is that SCC propose to plant, at the request of HTC, two cherry trees of different varieties and one pear tree. As above the only HTC commitment is to mobilise some nearby residents to water the trees during warm dry weather for the first three years.

### **Orchard Drive**

It was also reported that one side of Orchard Drive had been proposed as a possible site for planting and this had been accepted by SCC. The plan is to plant approx. 2400 self-watering whips between the junction with Cross Oak Lane and the Orchard Playground

The Sub-Committee was very positive about the proposals and several members volunteered to get in touch with residents to organise the watering requirements. The ESC Chairman extended a note of thanks to the officers for progressing the tree planting initiatives, in particular to Judy Morgan, for liaising with the SCC Highways Environmental Officer and initiating the successful outcomes of the project.

RESOLVED: that Members of the ESC would contact residents to seek their assistance in watering trees during dry weather.

# **ESC 34)**

# Future projects and priorities

# **ESC 35** Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs)

The Town Clerk said that a briefing from the RBBC Environmental Health Officer (Leon Hibbs) had been organised to take place before the next Full Council meeting on 7 March 2023. It was anticipated that the briefing would provide an overview of demand in Horley, an idea of to what extent RBBC are meeting that need; together with opportunities, challenges and costs of providing EVCPs.

### ESC 35) RESOLVED: noted the briefing to Full Council.

## **ESC 36** Wildflower Planting Proposals

Updates were received from both Cllr Saunders and the RFO to the effect that many of the previously identified locations were unsuitable for a variety of reasons and could not be progressed.

The Town Clerk suggested that it may be possible to make progress on Council owned land. Suggested sites agreed by the committee were Horley Recreation Ground and Memorial Gardens, and the Emlyn Meadows Bund. Members also suggested two further sites not on Council owned land which were on private land near Tanyard Barn and around the bases of the welcome to Horley signs not already being maintained by residents.

ESC 36) RESOLVED: that HTC Officers source quotations for annual wildflower planting at Horley Recreation Ground and Memorial Gardens in the first instance.

#### **Letters Received**

# **ESC 37** Caring for Crawley Rivers

The Town Clerk referred to the email received from The South East Rivers Trust, previously circulated to Members. She said that although this was not a new project, new personnel were keen to create a network of interested parties. It was considered that this would be a good opportunity to get across HTC views on the River Mole. Members agreed that HTC should declare an interest and offer an invitation to the next ESC meeting.

RESOLVED: that HTC interest in the local project and invite the Head of Science and Partnerships to the next ESC meeting.

### **ESC 38** Items for Future Consideration

RESOLVED: that Food Caddy use to be added to next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 19:05 pm

Date of Next Meeting – tbc